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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. In February 1954 there was a roll call of officers of the 287th Rifle Regiment at which a briefing was given by a general (name unknown) from the personnel department (otdel kadroy), Headquarters of the Central Group of Soviet Forces (CLF) in Baden. The general topic was the laxity of discipline and of security measures.

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2. First, the general talked about the poor discipline of the Soviet military in Austria. He mentioned several cases of murders being committed by members of the Soviet Forces in Hungary, and the barbaric attitude of the Soviets toward the Hungarian population, as well as their disregard for patriotism. He mentioned an instance of Soviet soldiers' attempting to destroy a national monument in Hungary. He also presented several cases illustrating that the morale of Soviet soldiers in Austria and Hungary was very low. He said that recently there had been several cases of self-inflicted wounds in order to avoid military service. All this, according to the general, was proof of low morale and laxity of discipline. He placed the blame for this primarily on the officers, who, in his words, were not sufficiently concerned with the morale, discipline, and especially the well-being of their subordinates. He appealed to the officers, as trusted representatives of the Soviet Government abroad, to be worthy of the confidence placed in them by their Government, to devote more time and care to the discipline within the units entrusted to them, to display greater conscientiousness, and to devote more time and effort to insure the well-being of their subordinates and to improve their morale.

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3. This part of the briefing completed, the general changed the subject and talked about the underground activities of Western powers, especially the United States, in Austria and Hungary. He said that the infiltration of United States intelligence agents in the Soviet occupied zones was becoming more and more intense and that enemy agents used every available means to get information about the Soviet Army, to induce personnel to defect, and to procure agents. In so doing, the agents did not hesitate to perform acts of

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sabotage, terror, and even murder. He mentioned a case of a Soviet WAC (Soldierette) in Austria who was pushed off a train and killed. This murder, he said, was committed by U.S. intelligence agents. A similar case was that of a Soviet lieutenant who was found dead on a railroad track near a Soviet Army garrison in Austria. This case had not yet been completely clarified, but there were plenty of indications that U.S. agents were responsible for the death.

4. The general continued relating cases of sabotage committed by U.S. agents in Austria. He mentioned the ever-increasing influx of anti-Soviet leaflets which were found not only in the vicinity of Soviet garrisons in Austria but even inside the military compounds; he also made mention of several cases of U.S. agents kidnapping Soviet officers' children in Vienna.
5. Finally, as a shocking case of treason to the Fatherland, the general described the recent case of three Soviet officers who had betrayed their country and defected to the Americans. The general completed his briefing with an urgent appeal to all officers to enforce the security regulations and discipline in their units, to keep a watchful eye on the activities of their subordinates, and to devote more attention and care to the morale and well-being of their EM.
6. Another briefing of the officers of the 287th Rifle Regiment in Urfahr was given sometime in summer 1953 by a lieutenant colonel representing the Judge Advocate's section (Prokuratura) of the Headquarters of the 95th Rifle Division. The briefing officer told of the increasing activity of the Western Powers and especially the U.S. directed toward inducing Soviet military personnel in Austria to desert. He said that the Headquarters of the Central Group of Soviet Forces had collected information that the Soviet deserters were trained for intelligence purposes, diversions, and sabotage in U.S. intelligence schools in West Germany and Italy. After completion of this schooling, these traitors to the Fatherland were usually parachuted into the Soviet Union and other countries of the Peoples' Democracies and assigned to commit terrorist activities and sabotage. In connection with this, he mentioned the case of a U.S. military plane carrying sabotage equipment which was forced down some time ago in Hungary. He stated that a certain number of Soviet deserters, presumably those who were unwilling to work for U.S. intelligence, were forcibly conscripted into the Foreign Legion (sic) and sent to Korea and Indo-China to fight for the U.S. imperialists. As an example of this, he cited the case of two former Soviet soldiers who were fighting on the U.S. side in Korea. One of these soldiers was seriously wounded and lost a leg. Completely incapacitated, he was eventually taken to a South American country and left there without work or help. Finally, at the point of starvation, he wrote a desperate letter either to his former Soviet Army unit or to his parents in the Soviet Union, in which he repented his crime against the Fatherland and expressed the desire to return home and face the consequences of his treacherous act rather than to starve in a foreign and unfriendly country. The lecturer said that there had been quite a number of similar cases but it would take at least 24 hours to describe them. Since the time for the lecture was limited, he said he was unable to read all of the letters written by disillusioned Soviet deserters repenting their crimes and asking forgiveness; he gave the contents of only one, the letter written from South America.
7. These two lectures were given to the officers of source's regiment by delegates sent for this purpose from divisional and group headquarters. Source does not remember any other official announcements dealing with U.S. activities in Austria.

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